

Pendleton Fire Zone Alterations 2014

In an effort to serve its users better, WFO Pendleton is reconfiguring many of its fire zones beginning on April 1st, 2014. Most of the zone boundaries were adjusted to better align with topography as well as climatological regimes, especially during thunderstorm events. The following maps show the present fire zone configuration (Fig. 1), and the new fire zone configuration (Fig. 2). Following the maps is a geographical description of the new zone boundaries.

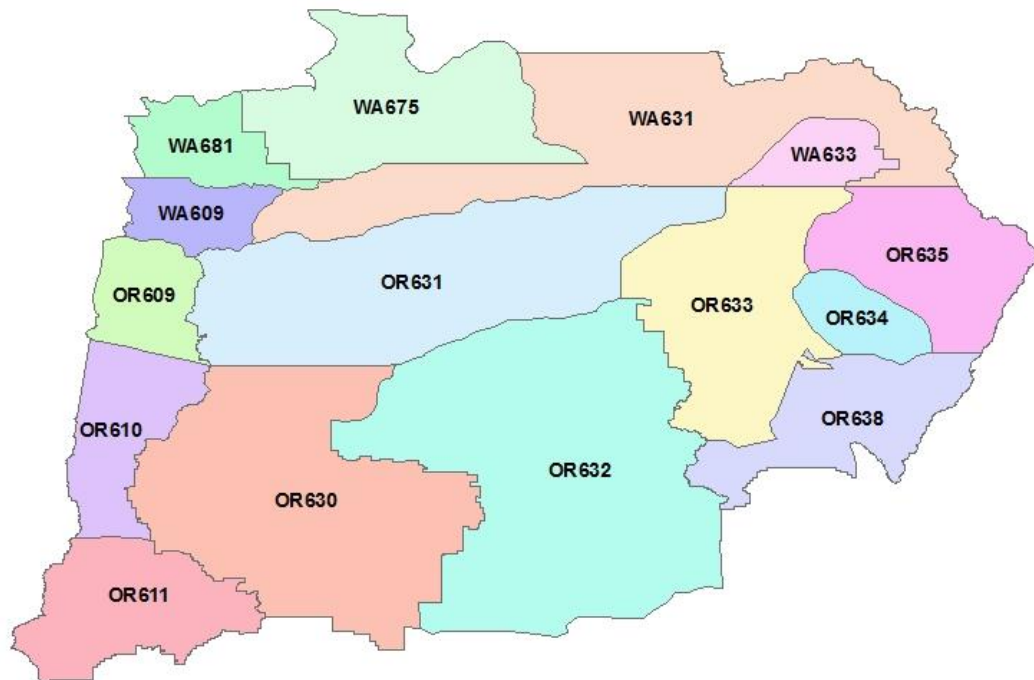


Figure 1.

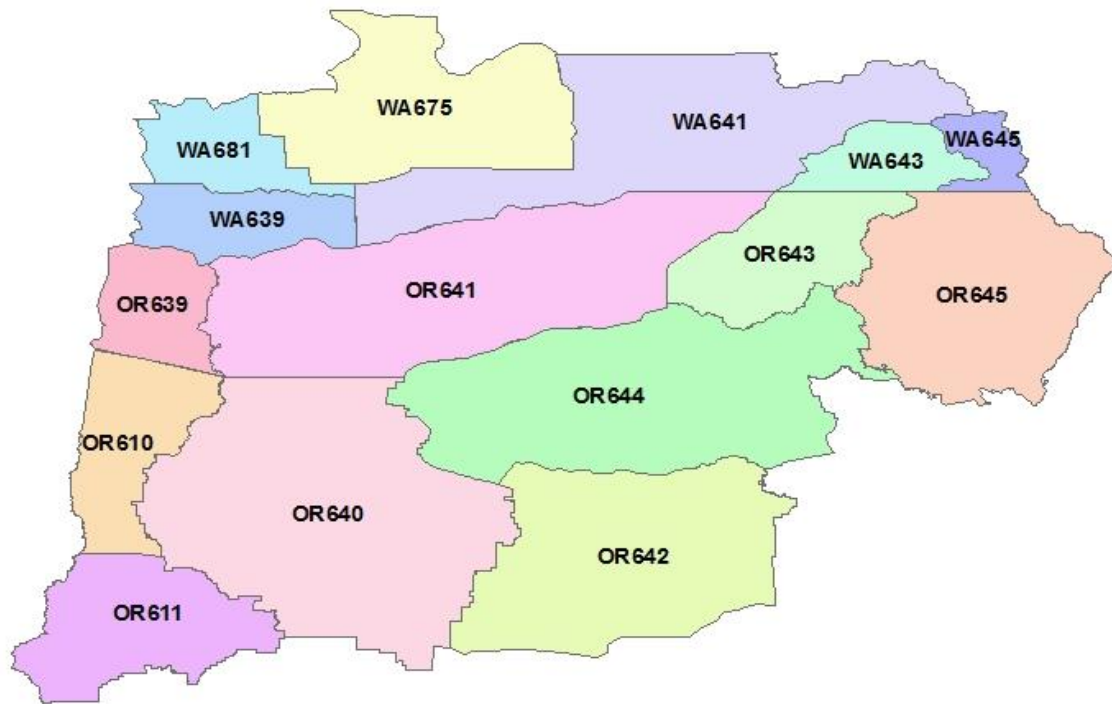


Figure 2.

East Slopes of the Central Oregon Cascades (OR 610, east boundary adjusted)

The northeast boundary of this zone is being modified to follow the Deschutes River from the zones northeast corner south until Lake Billy Chinook.

Deschutes National Forest (OR 611, no change)

Eastern Slopes of North Oregon Cascades (OR 639, old OR 609 east boundary adjusted)

This zone is being modified to move its current eastern boundary so that the entire town of Maupin is now within the zone. The boundary with zone 641 will now be east of Maupin and then follow the Deschutes River south to the zones 640 and 610 intersections.

East Slopes of the Southern Washington Cascades (WA 639, old WA 609, east boundary adjusted)

This zone is being modified to pull its eastern boundary east from Highway 97 to approximately longitude -120.38.

Central Mountains of Oregon (OR 640, old OR 630, west and east boundaries adjusted)

The zone's northwest boundary is being modified to follow the Deschutes River from the northwest corner of the zone south to Lake Billy Chinook. The eastern boundary of this zone is being modified in several places. Along the extreme northern portion of the eastern boundary, the boundary has been moved west to no longer include any of the Western Forested Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA). The central portion of the eastern boundary has been moved east of Mitchell, and will also now include more of the forested lands on the northeast edge of the Ochoco National Forest. A small area of the southern portion of the eastern boundary has been moved west so that it follows more closely with the southwest border of the Southern Blues FDRA.

Columbia Basin of Oregon (OR 641, old OR 631, east and west boundaries adjusted)

The western boundary of this zone has been modified to no longer include any portion of the town of Maupin, and then to follow the Deschutes River south of Maupin to the southwest corner of the zone. The southeast corner of this zone will no longer include the forested area on the Western Forested FDRA. The northeast corner of this zone will also no longer include the Western Forested FDRA.

Lower Columbia Basin of Washington (WA 641, old WA 631, east and west boundaries modified)

The southwestern boundary of this zone has been pulled east from Highway 97 to approximately longitude -120.38. Another western portion of this zone has been pulled west from the Benton County, Franklin County and Walla Walla County junction near the Tri-Cities so that Kennewick is now within this zone and the western boundary no longer borders Walla Walla County. The extreme eastern portion of this zone that originally wrapped around the northern Blue Mountains will no longer include Asotin County, but will have a boundary at the Garfield County and Asotin County border. The southeastern boundary of this zone has been modified westward to better align with the Northern Blues FDRA boundary.

Southern Blue and Strawberry Mountains (OR 642, new zone that is southern portion of old zone OR 632)

This zone will include the Southern Blue Mountains and therefore portions of the Umatilla, Malheur and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, as well as the John Day Valley. The northern boundary will be just north of the John Day Valley. The eastern boundary will run south along the western edge of the forests and then along the Malheur/Grant county line, and then the Malheur/Harney county line. The southern boundary is Highway 20, and the western boundary follows close to the Harney county line and then north close to the Grant/Crook county line.

Northern Blue Mountains of Oregon (OR 643, old OR 633, south, east and northwest boundaries modified)

This zone is now much smaller in size. The zone will no longer include any portion of the Central Blues FDRA or Baker County, and will now only include a small northern portion of the Grande Ronde Valley. The southern boundary will run along a small western portion of E Birch Creek Road, cut southeast to Highway 244, along Highway 244 north to US 84, then east along US 84 to just north of La Grande, and then it will turn north to follow the eastern boundary of the Blue Mountains eastward across the northern Grande Ronde Valley north of Summerville, but south of Elgin. The eastern boundary has been modified to better follow FDRA boundaries near the Wallowa/Union county border. The northwest boundary with zone OR631 has been pushed west to include more of the Blue Mountain foothills.

Blue Mountains of Washington (WA 643, old WA 633, east and west boundaries modified)

This zone's boundaries have only been modified slightly to expand coverage to include more of the forested areas on both the east and west sides of the Northern Blue Mountains.

Central Blue Mountains (OR 644, new zone that is northern portion of old zone OR 632)

This zone will include the southern and western portions of the Western Forested FDRA and the northern portion of the Central Blue Mountains, including the Elkhorn Mountains, as well as the Grande Ronde Valley. The northern boundary will run just north of the Umatilla National Forest, eastward to E Birch Creek Road, cut southeast to Highway 244, along this highway north to US 84, then east along US 84 to just north of La Grande, and then it will turn north to follow the eastern boundary of the Blue Mountains eastward across the northern Grande Ronde Valley north of Summerville, but south of Elgin. The eastern boundary will run along the east side of the Grande Ronde Valley, west along the Union/Baker county line, then south, west of the Baker Valley and east of the Elkhorn Mountains. The southern boundary will run from just south of the Elkhorn Mountains, west along Highway 26, but then north of the John Day Valley. The southwest corner will include a western portion of the John Day Valley, but will remain north of the Ochoco Mountains. The western boundary will cut through the middle of Wheeler County following FDRA boundaries.

Wallowa District (OR 645, old OR 634 and OR 635, south and west boundaries adjusted)

This zone's southern and western boundaries have been expanded to include all of the Eagle Cap Wilderness and the surrounding forested areas, including those which extend into Union and Baker counties. The eastern border remains the OR/ID state line and the northern border remains the WA/OR state line.

Asotin County (WA 645, new zone that was eastern portion of WA 631)

This zone will include the lowlands of Asotin County. It is bordered on the northwest by the Asotin/Garfield county line and the northeast by the Asotin/Whitman county line along the Snake River. The eastern border is the WA/ID state line and the southern border is the WA/OR state line. The western boundary is along the east side of the Northern Blue Mountains.

Eastern Washington Southern Columbia Basin (WA 675, southeast and southwest boundaries adjusted)

This zone is being modified to no longer include Kennewick, WA. A portion of the southwest border has also been modified so that it now follows more closely along the Mabton-Bickleton Highway.

Yakama Alpine District (WA 681, southeast boundary adjusted)

This southeast corner of this zone has been modified to include slightly more of the forested area west of Bickleton, WA.